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Scans: amyused Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: billies Typesetting: fencer_x

gate:7

KAZUKI
AKIRA!
YOU MADE IT BACK IN ONE PIECE I SEE
HAVE SOME DINNER FIRST
JIKOU-SAN WAS IN RATHER HIGH SPIRITS ON HEARING YOU WERE RETURNING
INDEED. YOU TWO EAT LIKE HORSES. SO HE'S QUITE THRILLED, IT SEEMS
EH?! REALLY?
INDEED.
WE'RE BAAAACK!
IS EVERYTHING THE SAME AS ALWAYS CHIEF PRIEST?
THAT'S GREAT

WHERE'S OZUNO-SAN?
glance
MAKING HIS NIGHT ROUNDS. HE'LL BE BACK SHORTLY.
'KAY...
tug
HMM?
Ah! Hotaru-chan!!
...DID YOU BRING ANY STORIES?
YUP! I GOT YOU SOME BOOKS FROM THE OTHER SIDE AS SOUVENIRS!
YOU DID??
YEAH! I'LL GIVE THEM TO YOU LATER.

SO YOU TWO ARE BACK, THEN?
HOW ARE THINGS ON THE OTHER SIDE?
UWAH!!
OZUNO-SAN, YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?!
I WAS SIMPLY HOT.
ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT?
SO COOL
MM...
WOW... Y'LOOK REALLY FRESH NOW.
DIDYA CUT IT 'CAUSE YOU BROKE UP WITH YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
SEEMS LIKE SOME PEOPLE FROM HERE ARE SLIPPING OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE...
I DON'T HAVE ALL THE DETAILS...
BUT THE PEOPLE FROM HERE WHO GO TO THE OTHER SIDE...
...WHAT'S GOING ON?
...ALL SEEM TO BE ACTING REALLY WEIRD.
WHICH MEANS?
THEY'RE ALL... INVALIDS, OR KIND OF MESSED UP IN THE HEAD.
WELL--

SOME HAVE LOST THEIR MEMORIES,
AND THE OLDER ONES SHOW SIGNS OF DEMENTIA
THEY ALL DEVELOP SOME SORT OF MENTAL ILLNESS
BUT--SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE NOT TALKIN' ABOUT THIS WORLD
SO MAYBE SOMETHIN' OVER THERE DOESN'T SIT RIGHT WITH THEM?
.....
THEN IF THE GATE ISN'T SHUT--
IF IT CONTINUES TO EXPAND AND MORE PEOPLE FLOW OVER...
THEN THE OTHER SIDE'LL GET PRETTY MESSED UP AS WELL.
THEN WE MUST MAKE FURTHER HASTE
IF WE HAD SOME MEANS .
YEAH--THERE ARE A FEW THINGS I WANT TO TRY NOW.
MIND COMING ALONG WITH ME TOMORROW, CHIEF PRIEST?
FINE, I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.
...OZUNO-SAN, HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS?
HM?

OH RIGHT!!
I WANNA GO TOO!
SURE-- LATER
I'M PERFECTLY FINE NOW
I'M TAKING DIPS IN THE HOT SPRINGS EVERY DAY
HE'S A RATHER ANNOYING SORT WHO'S APPARENTLY TAKEN WITH SEIGA
"FEUDAL LORD"?
CHIEF PRIEST, A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM THE FEUDAL LORD
OZUNO!
EH?!
THE RULER OF THIS LAND
THERE'S BEEN A LOT HAPPENING IN THE VILLAGE LATELY
RIGHT-- THANKS
WAIT--THE CHIEF PRIEST CAN MARRY?!
THAT'S AMAZING!
AND THIS IS WHY I KEEP URGING YOU TO HURRY AND TAKE A BRIDE!
SO?? ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE RIGHT NOW??
JIKOU!!
B--BUT HE'S A GUY...?
INDEED. AND HE MAKES A FAIR DONATION TO OUR SHRINE, AS WELL.
PROBABLY THINKS IT'LL GET HIM IN GOOD WITH SEIGA

GOOD GRIEF!
.....
SOOOO WHAT'S THE LORD LIKE?
pissed
HE'S A RATHER WEALTHY YOUNG MAN OF MIXED RACE WITH THE CONTINENTAL PEOPLES.
I WOULDN'T MIND IF SEIGA TOOK UP WITH HIM PERSONALLY...
WAIT--TWO GUYS CAN GET MARRIED HERE?!
YES--ALBEIT WITH A NUMBER OF RESTRAINTS.
AND IF THEY MARRIED, THIS SHRINE WOULD AT LAST HAVE SOME MEASURE OF PEACE...
YOU OKAY, AKIRA-CHAN?
.....
Woohoo!!
HOT SPRINGS! YAAAAY!!
kabboosh
CALM DOWN. OR ELSE YOU'RE GOING TO SLIP.

— glance
IS...THAT A TATTOO?
ON YOUR NECK
HM?
OH--NO, IT'S A BIRTHMARK. IT SHOWS UP CLEARER AS MY BODY HEAT RISES
WOW... IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL SHAPE...
IT LOOKS LIKE A BUG, DOESN'T IT?
APPARENTLY THE MARK RESEMBLES A TINY BEETLE KNOWN AS A "SHOU-KAKUCHUU"
...IS IT RELATED TO THE EXPERIMENTS YOU MENTIONED BEFORE?
toasty warm
YEAH, THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT IT WAS A TATTOO
SEIGA ALSO HAS A BILATERALLY SYMMETRICAL MARK LIKE THIS
pi-pa
PROBABLY.
IT'S WHERE I GOT MY NAME FROM
IT'S LIKE "THE MARK OF DEMONS"
THOUGH THE SHAPE OF HIS IS DIFFERENT

SURE.
CAN I.. TOUCH IT...?
blush
splash
...WHAT?
RELEASE
?
O--OH, NOTHING! NOTHING AT ALL!
H--HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH YUE-SAN...?
blush
SO...
crap
UMM..
ARE YOU TWO STILL.. UH, DOING.. THE 'FUCK BUDDIES' THING..?
HUH?

DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU SO CONCERNED WITH YUE FOR?
STAND
EH?!
Don't be ri--
I--I just--
What're you say ridiculous you are ??????
CALM DOWN, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYING
?
OR...DO YOU JUST NOT CARE ABOUT ROMANCE—?
ABOUT WHAT?
.....
WAIT...ARE YOU THE OBLIVIOUS TYPE, OZUNO-SAN?
I'VE HAD WHORES FROM THE VILLAGE FOLLOW ME AROUND A FEW TIMES IF THAT COUNTS?
WELL...I CAN'T SAY I VIEW IT AS AN ESSNTIAL.
WHAT THE-- THEY WERE *STALKING* YOU?!
SO...YOU'VE NEVER HAD A LOVER, ALL THIS TIME?
?

SEE, I...
WH...
WHY DO I FEEL...LIKE I'M SPINNING MY WHEE'S HERE...
WHY NOT?
JUST...
I GUESS I DON'T...REALLY WANT YOU AND YUE-SAN...TO DO THAT STUFF...
.....
fidget
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
SPEAK SO THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND YOU.
WELL--THAT KIND OF THING IS SOMETHING YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE, RIGHT...?
WE'RE ONLY USING ONE ANOTHER IN PLACE OF A WOMAN...
NO, THAT'S NO IT, SEE--
DO YOU NOT EXPERIENCE SEXUAL AROUSAL?

J--JUST, YOU SEE,
I SEEM TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR
.....
OH--WAIT, DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME?
EH?!
Why would you
IS THAT NOT IT?
THEN WHAT?
Ye...
Is this guy an alien..?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT! I DO!
IF YOU NEED A PARTNER, I'LL DO IT!
SO--DON'T DO IT WITH YUE-SAN ANYMORE!
COME TO ME LATER
WHA--?
TO MY ROOM.
silence...

I DON'T REALLY MIND EITHER WAY.
PROVIDED YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK?
EH?!
J--JUST OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT?!
...
WHAT'S UP, KAZU? DIZZY FROM YOUR BATH?
UMM--HEY, AKIRA-CHAN?
HM?
WELL...
NAH...
blush

IT'S HOT-- I'M GONNA TAKE A LITTLE WALK, OKAY?
RATTLE
SOUNDS LIKE THERE ARE GHOSTS OUT THERE, SO BE CAREFUL!
SURE...
ABOUT... A--ANA..L.. SE...
fidget
ANALYSIS?
UH--NO, NO, FORGET IT, NEVER-MIND...
NGH...
GUESS THE BEST EXPER-IENCE IS GAIN-ED BY DOING.
AH--KAZUKI COME IN.
RATTLE
OZUNO-SAN...?
KNOCK KNOCK
'K, Y...

CLEANING UP YOUR SWORD?
INDEED. EXCEPT THIS ONE IS YOURS.
MINE...?
SURELY YOU'LL FEEL BETTER WITH A WEAPON, RIGHT?
IT'S REAL. SO TAKE CARE.
DO--DO YOU NOT HAVE A SMALLER ONE?
It's heavy
HMM... HOW ABOUT THIS SHORT SWORD, THEN?
UMM... OZUNO-SAN...
HMM?
JUST, I...
HAVE A SEAT
pat
'KAY...
THERE'S A REASON THAT I...
...HAVE NO CONSTANT PARTNERS IN BED
HUH...?

I'VE NEVER RESEARCHED IT MYSELF--
--BUT IT SEEMS ALL DEMONS ARE LIKE THIS.
NEITHER I NOR SEIGA CAN HAVE CHILDREN.
WHAT?!
...WOULD CONSENT TO SPEND TIME WITH A DEMON?
KACHA
AFTER ALL, WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND...
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON, OF COURSE.
IF THEY CLOSE THE GATE...AND WE CAN'T GO BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS,
O--OZUNO-SAN..
B--BUT HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT?!
THERE MIGHT BE SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO WANTS TO BE WITH YOU...!
WE'LL... NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN...WILL WE...?
HM?
WHA...?
...I'M FINE WITH BEING ALONE LIKE THIS UNTIL I DIE.

I SUPPOSE NOT...
...WOULD THAT MAKE YOU SAD?
.....
BADUMP
BADUMP
YEAH...
I GUESS IT WOULD...

"KISS"...?
JUST...
C--CAN I.. KISS YOU?
OZUNO-SAN...
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU PUT YOUR LIPS ON...
fidget
fidget
HM?
OH CRAP...
I...MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS...
AH...
WHAT?
YOU MEAN THIS...?
NO--JUST, SEE...
CHIEF PRIEST
YUE?!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN--?

NAH, JUST HAD A PROFITABLE DAY FISHING.
HERE.
AH! THAT'S SWEETFISH!
SO WHERE'S OZUNO?
HE'S ALREADY RESTING...
IS HE, NOW?
I'LL JUST DROP IN.
YUE!
WE'RE JUST GOING TO CHAT, I PROMISE!
GOOD GRIEF!
CREAK
O... OZUNO-SAN...
HMM?
I--I KNOW I SAID I'D BE A SUBSTITUTE...
BUT...I'VE ACTUALLY NEVER...DONE THIS WITH A GUY BEFORE.
BADUMP
BADUMP

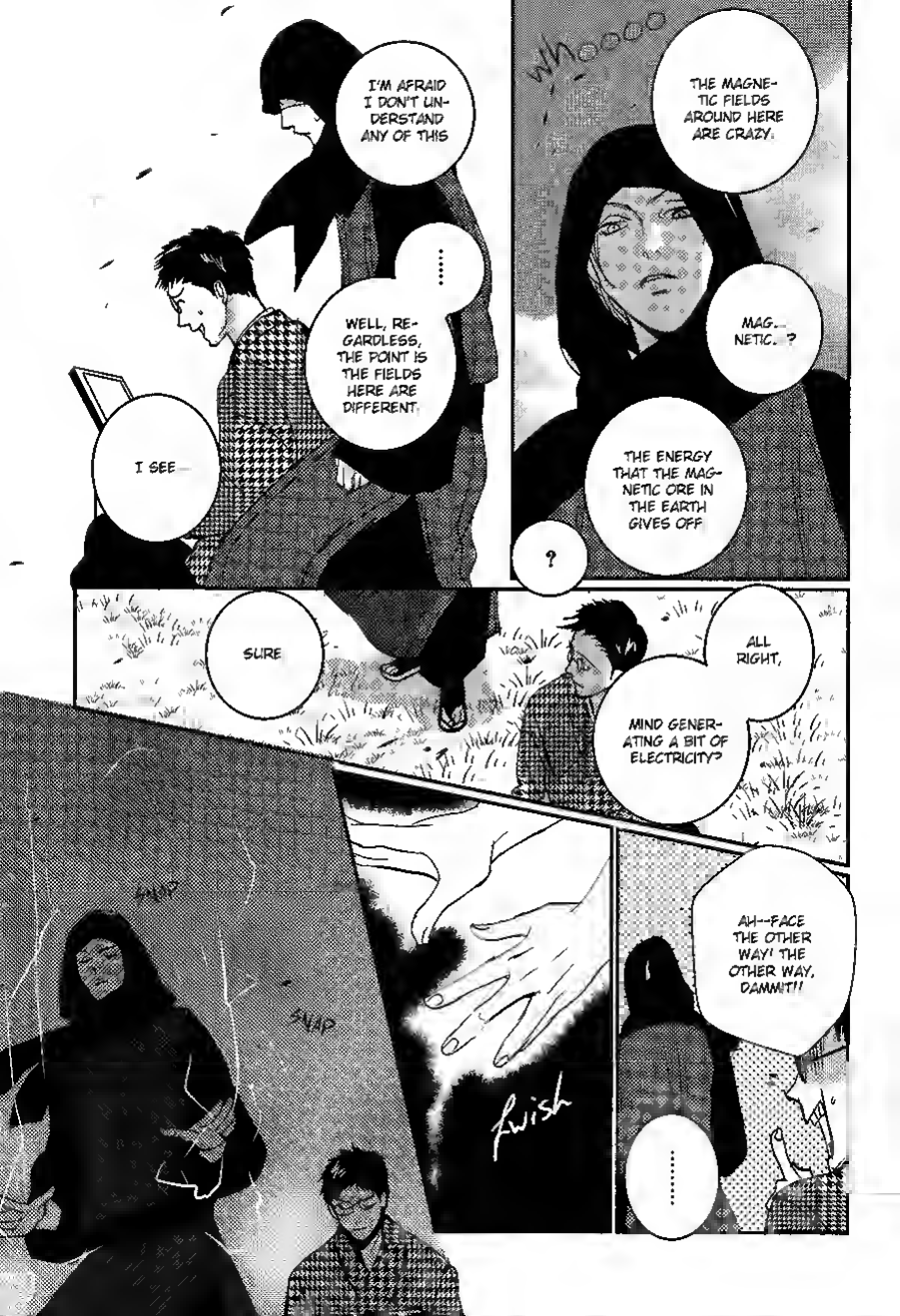
WH... WHAT?
YOU'RE SO THIN... YOU NEED MORE MUSCLE ON YOU.
WHY ARE YOU GETTING MAD?
OF--OF COURSE NOT! WHAT ARE YOU SUGGESTING?!
YOU DON'T DO THIS WITH AKIRA, THEN?
KAZUKI...
BADUMP
BADUMP
I KNOW...
I SEE...
SO I FIGURE THINGS WILL WORK OUT...
BUT IT SEEMS AKIRA-CHAN'S GOT AN IDEA
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE HOW YET...
HUH? WELL, YEAH.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL FIND A WAY TO CLOSE THE GATE...?

HM?
I'M JUST AN EXTRA TAGGING ALONG WITH AKIRA-CHAN...
SORRY...
I REALLY HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH HELP...
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO BACK ONCE THE GATE CLOSES...
BUT YOU COULD LIVE HERE WITH US
...IF YOU WANTED TO, YOU COULD STAY HERE...
EH...?
BUT IF YOU COULDN'T COME, THEN AKIRA WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO EITHER, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU FIT WELL WITH THIS WORLD?
OZLINO--
HM?
WH--YOU... WOULDN'T MIND...?
NOT AT ALL... ONLY IF YOU WANTED TO, THAT IS...
YEAH...
I GUESS IT'S KINDA STRANGE HOW OFTEN I'VE FALLEN INTO THIS PLACE...
CREAK

EH--?!
WAI--NOT THERE YET!
AH-- WAIT!!
SO NOISY...
AH!
YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TOUCH YOU?
NO, JUST, IT'S—EM-BARRAS-SING!

Once the gate is closed...
zzz
zzz
I'll never see them again...
Everyone...
This beautiful place...
And Ozuno-san, too...

Just when did I...
...fall so deeply in love with this man?
MM...
WHAT'S WRONG?
JUST AS I SUSPECTED...


I'M AFRAID I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS
WELL, REGARDLESS, THE POINT IS THE FIELDS HERE ARE DIFFERENT.
I SEE...
THE MAGNETIC FIELDS AROUND HERE ARE CRAZY.
MAG...NETIC...?
THE ENERGY THAT THE MAGNETIC ORE IN THE EARTH GIVES OFF
?
SURE
ALL RIGHT, MIND GENERATING A BIT OF ELECTRICITY?
SWAP
SWAP
Swish
AH--FACE THE OTHER WAY! THE OTHER WAY, DAMMIT!!

WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, JUST ..
!
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT..
?
RUMBLE
END